



FALL 2002

Louisiana COASTLINES

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

America's WETLAND Campaign has World Partner

Governor M. J. "Mike" Foster, Jr. announced that prominent world, national and state industry and organization leaders will join in Louisiana's multi-year initiative to increase national awareness of the state's dramatic coastal land loss and how that loss impacts the nation and the world.

"I am extremely gratified to announce that Shell Oil Company Foundation has committed to a seed gift to help get our campaign off the ground. Their intention is to follow that with a lead campaign gift, for a total of \$3 million to ensure the success of the campaign over the next three years," Governor Foster said.

Rob J. Routs, incoming president for Shell Oil Company US and president of Shell Oil Company Foundation, was on hand to announce the donation and to accept the designation as a "World Partner" in the broad public awareness initiative, America's WETLAND: Campaign to Save Coastal Louisiana.

"This is the single most important

thing we can do to gain the nation's support for restoring these vital wetlands for our future," Governor Foster said. "Although the entire nation depends on Louisiana's coastal wetlands for its energy production, seafood harvest, leading port system and wildlife habitat, very few people know they even exist."

Among those committing support to the campaign as "National and State Partners" were:

- Jim Tripp, executive counsel, Environmental Defense
- Paul McIlhenny, president and CEO, Tabasco, Inc.
- Don Young, executive director, Ducks Unlimited
- Mark Davis, executive director, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
- Jeff Angers, executive director, Louisiana Chapter Coastal Conservation Association
- Keith Ouchley, executive director, Louisiana Nature Conservancy



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- Stephanie Desselle, senior vice president, Council for a Better Louisiana

- Lori LeBlanc, executive director, Restore or Retreat

President of Whitney National Bank and Chairman of the Governor's Advisory Commission for Coastal Restoration and Conservation, King Milling, cited the importance of the campaign as an integral part of the state's efforts to build national support for coastal restoration.

Campaign developer Valsin Marmillion, president, Pacific Visions Communications, described a comprehensive set of campaign strategies, including a media partner

commitment by TIME For KIDS, a division of TIME Magazine, to develop educational and youth-focused materials.

A new video program, produced to help inform audiences of the educational campaign, was premiered at the Southern Governor's Association Conference. The video features Louisiana Congressional leaders stressing the importance of America's WETLAND to the nation's energy and economic security and its world ecological significance.

For more information, contact Sidney Coffee, Governor's Office of Coastal Activities, at 225-342-4844.

How you can help

America's WETLAND: Campaign to Save Coastal Louisiana encourages you to join efforts to save this important resource. For more information on how you can support the America's WETLAND campaign, please visit **www.americaswetland.com** or call **1.866.4WETLAND**.

National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration

April 13-16, 2003

Hyatt Regency Inner Harbor Hotel
Baltimore, Maryland

Hosted by Restore America's Estuaries

This will be the first nationwide forum focused solely on the goals and practices of coastal and estuarine habitat restoration. Incorporating the non-profit, government, business and academic sectors, the Conference will enable networking and communication among these groups. For more information visit **www.estuaries.org**



DNR Coastal Secretary Speaks to National Water Group

The Department of Natural Resources' Assistant Secretary of Coastal Restoration and Management, James R. "Randy" Hanchey is a crusader for saving coastal Louisiana. His work schedule includes delivering speeches on the drastic rate of Louisiana's land lost since 1950. This time, he delivered his message before the attendees at the annual National Waterways Conference held in New Orleans September 4th -6th. Hanchey and other panelists who participated in the forum, "Louisiana's Everglades: Restoring the Eroding Coastline," presented a vivid picture of the severity of land loss in coastal Louisiana. He told the group that the state's marsh land, the size of Rhode Island, has disappeared before our very eyes.

Why is coastal Louisiana disappearing? According to Hanchey, the land loss is caused by several factors. He cited the building of levees that prevented the flow of Mississippi River sediment into the marshes, pipeline canals dug by the oil and gas industry, saltwater intrusion into the marshes and other factors as major causes.

He stressed that despite the impending ecosystem collapse in south Louisiana, state and federal officials are working to stem the land loss through several methods such as sediment diversion, barrier island restoration, freshwater diversion and marsh creation through dredging. He highlighted such projects as Davis Pond and the Caernarvon Freshwater Diversion Project, located southeast of New



OCRM Assistant Secretary Randy Hanchey is shown in his new executive office at the LaSalle Office Building in downtown Baton Rouge.

Orleans. According to the assistant secretary, the state and federal governments have spent more than \$370 million on various wetland projects since 1991. He also emphasized the need to address the Coast 2050 Plan with a cost estimate of \$14 billion.

Hanchey appeared on the panel with John P. Saia, deputy district engineer for project management, New Orleans District, Army Corps of Engineers and Valsin A. (Val) Marmillion, founder, Pacific Visions Communications, Inc., Los Angeles, California. Marmillion presented "Selling the National Importance: America's Wetland" to the more than 300 participants in the conference from across the United States. (*See related article on America's Wetland in this issue.*)



Underwater Obstructions Notice and Coordinates

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 56:700.1 et. seq., notice is given that 46 claims in the amount of \$140,084.32 were received for payment during the period April 1, 2002 - August 31, 2002. There were 41 claims paid and 5 claims denied.

Loran Coordinates of reported underwater obstructions are:

27442	46954	ST MARY
27923	46869	TERREBONNE
28147	46847	TERREBONNE
28286	46857	TERREBONNE
28586	46898	JEFFERSON
29036	47037	ST BERNARD

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates of reported underwater obstructions are:

29 02.373	90 19.821	LAFOURCHE
29 05.120	90 14.250	LAFOURCHE
29 08.076	90 25.277	TERREBONNE
29 12.761	89 00.848	PLAQUEMINES
29 14.168	90 30.872	TERREBONNE
29 14.832	89 59.427	JEFFERSON
29 15.912	89 05.878	PLAQUEMINES
29 16.045	89 51.726	JEFFERSON
29 16.170	89 57.370	JEFFERSON
29 16.799	89 51.933	JEFFERSON
29 18.440	89 46.710	JEFFERSON
29 24.448	89 59.976	JEFFERSON
29 24.497	91 12.973	ST MARY
29 24.549	89 46.915	PLAQUEMINES
29 25.878	89 29.939	ST BERNARD
29 26.176	91 41.933	ST MARY
29 29.602	92 21.252	VERMILION
29 33.067	92 18.065	VERMILION
29 33.994	92 31.533	CAMERON
29 37.851	89 30.320	ST BERNARD
29 44.285	89 41.489	ST BERNARD
29 44.303	89 21.180	ST BERNARD
29 45.134	89 31.596	ST BERNARD
29 45.548	93 23.860	CAMERON
29 47.625	89 33.269	ST BERNARD
29 48.072	93 20.675	CAMERON
29 48.865	89 35.281	ST BERNARD
29 49.552	89 17.351	ST BERNARD
29 50.417	89 41.346	ST BERNARD
29 50.490	89 17.610	ST BERNARD
29 51.515	90 28.276	ST CHARLES
29 52.732	89 42.556	ST BERNARD
30 00.810	89 54.340	ORLEANS
30 01.179	89 52.552	ORLEANS
30 03.670	89 39.543	ST BERNARD
30 05.228	90 11.749	JEFFERSON
30 06.697	89 34.568	ORLEANS

A list of claimants and amounts paid can be obtained from Verlie Wims, Administrator, Fishermen's Gear Compensation Fund, P.O. Box 44277, Baton Rouge, LA 70804 or call (225) 342-0122.



NOAA and DNR Match Needs

Each year, the NOAA Coastal Services Center located in Charleston, South Carolina coordinates the NOAA Coastal Management Fellowship Program. The Fellowship program provides postgraduate students in coastal and ocean resource management with employment and educational experience in a state coastal management department. A state which has a federally approved Coastal Zone Management Program (CZM) is eligible to write a grant proposal for a coastal resource project with goals and objectives that can be accomplished within a two-year term. Potential fellows apply through their university's Sea Grant program. Applicants and state representatives have the opportunity to meet and engage in mutual interviews and discussion sessions. Fellows are then selected based on professional compatibility and interests.

In Louisiana, the federally approved CZM is the Louisiana Coastal Resources Management Program (LCRP) within the Department of Natural Resources. The LCRP allows parishes to develop a Local Coastal Program (LCP). A parish with an approved LCP may issue permits for coastal development projects of local concern and must mitigate for all adverse impacts to wetlands from such development. Therefore, coordination and cooperation between the coastal parishes and DNR's Coastal Management Division is crucial so that its "no-net-loss" of coastal wetlands policy is achieved.

This year, CMD Interagency Affairs Manager, Gregory J. DuCote, wrote a grant proposal for a coastal resource project for Louisiana. The project is titled, "Mitigation at the Local Level – Technical Assistance to Local Government for Mitigation Program Development." DuCote said the overall goal of the project is to enable

parishes with approved LCP's to implement compensatory mitigation by providing technical guidance and support through individual meetings and educational workshops. The project also includes the development of a database on LCP mitigation to track and monitor the effectiveness of the program.

In August, DuCote's proposal was matched to fellowship applicant Tali Engoltz. She has a masters' degree from the School of Marine Affairs at the University of Washington. Engoltz also graduated magna cum laude from the Honors College at the University of South Carolina in May 2000. The School of Marine Affairs awarded Engoltz a two-year graduate assistantship with the Climate Impacts Group at the University of Washington. DuCote places a lot of confidence in Engoltz's ability to get the job done. "Her interest in enhancing local participation in coastal resource management and her educational background in marine and coastal science and management are key to what will make this project succeed," he said.

During the next two years, Engoltz will work with CMD Interagency staff to train LCP personnel in the state's methodology for determining impacts from permitted activities and developing mitigation projects which offset the impacts of coastal development. Engoltz's development of an electronic database for reporting the results of local concern permit applications, mitigation projects, and monitoring efforts will be another essential element of the project.

At the end of the day and when her work is complete, the state will have strengthened local government's role in compensatory mitigation as well as in the management of our valuable coastal resources.





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Atchafalaya Basin Month Experience Atchafalaya Days

October 2002

By proclamation of Governor Mike Foster there will be a number of events in the month of October to highlight and celebrate the richness and environment of the Atchafalaya Basin. The Atchafalaya Basin is America's largest distributary river swamp and is protected under the Atchafalaya Basin Master Plan of 1998. For a list of events, go online to **www.atchafalayaatrace.org/current-events.htm**